(a) whether it is a fact that during the eleventh Five Year Plan period, Central contribution for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme would gradually be decreased from the 3rd year of the plan period, whereas the State contribution would be simultaneously increased; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The funding pattern for the SSA during XIth Plan period and onwards has been modified by the Government of India, to enable States to sustain the programme, as below:

(i) **For States/Union Territories other than NE States:** The funding pattern between the Central Government and States/UTs shall be in the ratio of 65:35 for the first two years of the XIth Plan; 60:40 for the third year; 55:45 for the fourth year; and 50:50 thereafter.

(ii) **For 8 North Eastern States:** The fund sharing pattern between Centre and States shall be 90:10 under the programme with the Centre's share resourced from the 10% funds earmarked for the NE Region in the SSA's central budget.

Assistance to Chhattisgarh for upgradation of science and environmental education

†1365. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sought by Chhattisgarh during the last three years for the upgradation of science education and environmental education in schools;

(b) the details of funds sanctioned and for which schools;

(c) the funds released out of the sanctioned amount; and

(d) the action plan for sanctioning and releasing the remain amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The State Government of Chhattisgarh had sought funds to the tune of Rs. 9,60,30,000 during 2007-08 for strengthening of laboratories and providing equipments. However, no funds could be sanctioned as 'Improvement of Science Education in Schools', which is a component of the composite scheme of "Quality Improvement in Schools (QIS)", under which financial assistance was provided to States/ UTs for strengthening of laboratories & libraries has been transferred to State Government/ UT Administrations as a State Sector Scheme w.e.f. April, 2006. Also, under the scheme of Environmental Orientation to School Education (EOSE) funds are released to voluntary Agencies for experimental and innovative programmes aimed at promoting integration of educational programmes in schools with local environmental conditions.

Corporal punishment for school children

1366. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring in any special legislation to ban/prohibit corporal punishment for school children in any form;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi